



# Instructional Technology Newsline

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Instructional Technology Staff  
(573) 751-8247

<http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters>

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## ◆ **Instructional Technology Update**

Newsline is a free online e-newsletter published monthly by the DESE Instructional Technology section. Begun in November of 1999, Newsline provides educators with timely information on current education technology programs and initiatives, upcoming deadlines, conferences, and general information about technology integration planning, implementation, and evaluation.

This December we announce the launching of the new Ed Tech Listserv. Sometimes information or news can't wait for the Newsline publishing cycle. On those rare or special occasions, the Ed Tech Listserv will be used -- to push out critical and time-sensitive information in the most expedient way available. To subscribe / unsubscribe to the listserv, go to the Instructional Technology web site and click on Listserv under the Current Information bar. --Deb

### **FY04 Technology Budgets and Grant Programs**

State And Federal Funds/Programs:

TAG (Not funded for FY04)

TNP and Safe Schools (No news to report)

## **Title IID**

2003-04 -- Instructional Technology staff are conducting desk audits and telephone interviews with districts in their second year of the two-year eMINTS program and reviewing first quarter reports submitted by teachers and technology directors in their first year of the program.

2004-05 -- Indications are Congress will level-fund the Ed Tech Program for next year. Application information for Missouri's FY05 Title IID competitive grant program will be mailed to districts in January. A general program information workshop will be conducted on February 23, 2004 in Jefferson City. The application due date is March 31, 2004.

## **District Technology Plan Approvals**

### Workshops

Last month, educators from 25 districts attended one of the three technology planning workshops conducted by the Missouri Educational Technology Professional Association (METPA). The workshops were targeted for the 70 school districts whose education technology plans will have their state approval status expire in 2004.

### Submission And Approval Process

New and/or substantially updated plans are to be submitted to DESE Instructional Technology section by March 31, 2004. Once the plan is developed and board-approved, attach a copy of the Department's District Technology Plan Review/Approval form to the front of the plan. Complete the form's district information section and mail both the plan and scoring guide to IT by March 31. A panel of readers will review the plans in Jefferson City on April 15-16, 2004. (Contact the Instructional Technology office to learn more about becoming a district tech plan reader/evaluator.) Approval status letters will be mailed to districts during the first week of May.

### Technical Assistance

METPA volunteers will be available in January and March to provide tech planning technical assistance. Educators are invited to bring drafts of their plans to have them reviewed by trained evaluators. Opportunities for technical assistance will be provided in Jefferson City in January and at MOREnet's spring technical conference in March.

## **E-rate Program**

### Funding Year 2003

Wave 17 for E-rate funding for funding year 2003 (July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004) will be issued on Tuesday, December 2, 2003. In this wave, the SLD will be committing over \$50.6 million in 164 letters to school and library applicants. The funding associated with this wave included funding for priority 1 (telecommunications and Internet access) and for priority 2 (internal connections) at the 85% discount level. To date, the SLD has committed over \$1.5 billion in 29,237 letters for funding year 2003. Additional waves will be issued every other week until the process is complete. Visit the E-rate website at <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/default.asp>.

### Funding Year 2004

The application window for 2004 E-rate discounts opened on November 5, 2003. Applicants have until February 4, 2004 at 11:59 p.m. EST to submit their Form 471 applications for funding year 2004.

Below is a recent posting on the SLD website regarding the Restructuring of Applicant PIN System:

The SLD will be improving the security for the Applicant PIN Request System. As part of this process, all applicant PINs will be deactivated on Wednesday night, November 19. The SLD will send an email message to the email address associated with each PIN as a notification of this deactivation. To certify forms online, applicants must re-apply for a PIN. To obtain a new PIN, the person who was authorized and who signed (either on paper or online) an online Form 471 or a completed, online Form 486 that contains at least one funded FRN must enter the application number and the security code for that form. The authorized person requesting a PIN will also have to provide identifying contact information and a current email address. If the system requirements are met, the SLD will send the authorized person an email within one hour with the information necessary to access the new PIN. The PIN can be used immediately to certify a form online. The restructured Applicant PIN System will enable

enhanced security: an email message will be sent to the email address registered to the PIN each time the PIN is used. If the security of the PIN has been compromised, the authorized person will know immediately and should call the Client Service Bureau to alert the SLD. Applicants whose Internet Service Providers do not update information on a real-time basis may encounter difficulties in accessing the Applicant PIN Request site before 10:00 AM EST on Monday, November 24. These applicants will receive an online message containing additional information if they attempt to access the site. If you have any questions or need help in obtaining a new PIN, please use the Submit a Question function on the website at [http://www.slforms.universalservice.org/EMailResponse/EMail\\_Intro.aspx](http://www.slforms.universalservice.org/EMailResponse/EMail_Intro.aspx) or call 1-888-203-8100.

#### Workshop Update

MOREnet conducted seven regional training sessions in October and November, serving 155 attendees. The workshops were well received. As a result of some of the discussion, MOREnet has issued email messages that further describe the eligible services and how to deal with multiple-year contracts. Archived messages can be retrieved on the MOREnet USF website at <http://www.more.net/services/e-rate/resources/index.html>.



### **New Ed Tech Listserv**

Want to know immediately when the Department sends out communication to school administrators about ed tech programs and initiatives? Want to be reminded of important deadlines and upcoming events? This month, the Instructional Technology section announces the launch of the new Ed Tech Listserv, which will be used to push out critical and time-sensitive information in the most expedient way available. Anyone can subscribe to the listserv. Visit the Instructional Technology web site and click on Listserv under the Current Information bar, or go to [http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/edtech\\_subscribe.html](http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/edtech_subscribe.html).



### **Missouri Computers for Schools Program**

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS – Later this month, the Department's Industrial Education and Health Sciences section plans to mail districts application materials for the Missouri Computers for Schools Program. Through the program's collaborative effort, computers donated from various businesses and individuals are refurbished and distributed to schools throughout the state. Support is provided by DESE to purchase parts and software licenses to upgrade the computers to meet a minimum set of technical specifications. Offenders at the Northeast Correctional Center successfully complete a 180-hour microcomputer repair course offered in cooperation with St. Charles Community College, then spend an average of 38 hours per week working in the NECC Vo-Tech Department refurbishing the computers. DESE is responsible for the selection of the schools that receive computers from the program. In the first four years of the program, over 3,000 computers and 400 printers have been distributed to Missouri schools districts.

To be eligible, districts must complete an application and indicate assurance that the district has a technology plan which addresses the effective use of computers, the computers will be used exclusively for instructional purposes, there is adequate security and technical support for the computers and their users, and the Census of Technology (COT) is updated/completed annually. Applications are returned to the Department's Industrial Education section. Computers are distributed based on computer availability and distribution quotas based on technology need, school size, and geographic location. Priority is given to districts with demonstrated technology need using the COT data and/or that have special circumstances. To learn more information about the program, contact Robert Hess in the Industrial Education section at 573-522-5805 (voice) or [Robert.Hess@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Robert.Hess@dese.mo.gov) (email).



### **Ed Tech Research, Publications, Resources**

### **CCT Releases “Retrospective on Twenty Years of Education Technology Policy”**

In a new report analyzing 20 years of national education policy, researchers at the Center for Children and Technology (CCT) discover a striking consensus in past recommendations for the effective integration of technology in schools and offers advice about recommendations for the next twenty years. The report, “A Retrospective on Twenty Years of Education Technology Policy” was commissioned by the U.S. Department of Education as part of the development of the National Education Technology Plan mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act. The report, available online, synthesizes the findings of more than 25 major studies and policy papers, beginning with “A Nation at Risk” in 1983.

According to the report, educational technologists and researchers have developed deeper understanding of the complex factors affecting the success of technology integration in schools. The focus has shifted away from an emphasis on “single input” strategies, such as wiring of schools, to an appreciation of the multiple dimensions of the educational system that influence the way technology is used. Says CCT Director Margaret Honey, “the lessons learned in this report can help guide future educational technology policy so that we are building on past successes and continually working to improve teaching and learning.” For a copy of this report, see: <http://www.NationalEdTechPlan.org>.

### **NCES releases “Projections of Education Statistics to 2013”**

The National Center of Education Statistics (NCES) recently released, “Projections of Education Statistics to 2013,” which provides projections for key education statistics, including data on enrollment, graduates, teachers, and expenditures in elementary and secondary schools, and enrollment, earned degrees conferred, and current-fund expenditures of degree-granting institutions. One observation: The public school population in the Northeast is projected to drop 1.8%, while enrollment in the West will increase about 13.2%, the data suggests. For the Nation, the tables, figures, and text contain data on enrollment, teachers, graduates, and expenditures for the past 14 years and projections to the year 2013. To download or print the report, see: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2004013>

### **ETS releases report on school and society factors in closing the achievement gap**

The Policy Center of the Education Testing Service (ETS) released a new research report “Parsing the Achievement Gap: Baselines for Tracking Progress”, which shows that the achievement gap is not only about what goes on once kids get into the classroom. The report identifies the factors before, during and after school that create and perpetuate the well-documented gaps in achievement among students from different racial and ethnic backgrounds and different family income levels. The report specifies 14 factors related to student achievement ranging from birth weight and hunger to lead poisoning, parental involvement, and teacher quality. It also examines the negative impact for different racial/ethnic and income groups experiencing these factors that impact learning. Eleven factors are associated with the gaps between students from low-income families and higher income families. Paul Barton, author of the report writes: “The gaps in student achievement mirror inequalities in those aspects of school, early life, and home circumstances that research has linked to achievement.” For a copy of this report, see: <http://www.ets.org>

### **Book about better teaching and learning in the digital classroom**

A new book by David Gordon deals with the overall justification for investing in school technologies to improve teaching and learning “in a high-stakes climate.” It addresses the questions: Does the payout justify the payoff? Can such powerful new tools really make a difference in classroom practice? What must teachers do to truly transform instruction with technology rather than simply dress up old practices in high-tech packaging? This is a follow-up book to a previous publication, The Digital Classroom: How Technology Is Changing the Way We Teach and Learn. Its authors, educators and researchers, draw on examinations of educational innovations that make use of new technologies to improve teaching and learning. It offers several examples from real classrooms and gives readers ideas of what works in classrooms in a context of today's standards and increased accountability requirements. Topics include: using technology to build learning connections among teachers, parents, and students, developing “multiple literacies,” and uses of PDAs, laptops, and wireless technologies. See: <http://gseweb.harvard.edu/%7Ehepg/betterteachingandlearning.html>

## **Appalachian RTEC reports on supporting technology integration and revitalizing public education**

The Appalachian Technology in Education Consortium (ATEC) recently released the following reports:

- "Achieving 21st Century Skills: The Role of Today's Schools"  
The goal of the "Learning for the 21st Century Project," writes Eric Marvin, author of this report, "is to stimulate a national dialogue about the resources and strategies needed to support school reform and improvement efforts." This paper suggests that post-secondary institutions, community-based organizations, and the private sector all have important roles to play in revitalizing and sustaining the quality of public education. This ATEC project paper complements the report, Learning for the 21st Century and the MILE Guide that was released last June. To view or download a copy of Marvin's paper, see: <http://www.the-atec.org/lib-pub.asp>
- "Supporting Technology Integration On Site: Theory, Cases, and Lessons Learned"  
Dr. Michael Grant, University of Memphis, prepared this ATEC paper. Teachers, students, state departments of education and school districts across the country are implementing a variety of initiatives to facilitate technology integration and improve student performance. This report recommends ways to use these programs as models for further professional development in other geographical locales. To view or download a copy of this report, see: <http://www.the-atec.org/lib-pub.asp>

## **SETDA releases State Budget Survey results**

On November 10, the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) released a summary of the State Budget Survey. SETDA is the principle association for state directors of technology and their staff members. Results from SETDA's first annual State Budget Survey revealed that total budgets for educational technology decreased from 2001-2002 to 2002-2003.

- Even though the average total federal funding increased, the difference was more than offset by significant state budget cuts averaging \$3,469,280 in the majority of the 31 states responding to the survey. State budgets decreased on average from \$13,862,160 in 2001-2002 to \$10,392,880 in 2002-2003.
- More than one-half of the responding states reduced their staff members. In 2001-2002, participating states had an average of 12.6 staff members. In 2002-2003, the same states averaged 10.6 staff members. The median of staff members was slightly less than six and ranged in 2002-2003 from one to fifty staffers.
- Almost half of all states anticipated additional funding cuts in 2003 and made significant concerted efforts to maintain status quo in terms of systems and programs with decreased resources.

For more information about SETDA and/or its resources and events, visit <http://www.setda.org>. For a full copy of the press release, visit <http://www.setda.org/content.cfm?sectionID=21>.

## **CoSN publishes "Emerging Technology Series" wireless LAN guide**

On November 4, CoSN released "A Guide to Wireless LANs in K-12 Schools," the first in a series of reports from CoSN's Emerging Technologies Committee. The report examines the implementation of wireless LAN technologies in K-12 schools and identifies challenges, options and lessons learned. Critical issues addressed in the report include standards and compatibility, planning and implementation, security, and total cost of ownership.

The 24-page report includes profiles of eight wireless-using districts: Kearney Public Schools in Nebraska, Clark County School District in Georgia, Amarillo Independent School District in Texas, Cache County School District in Utah, Hampton City Schools in Virginia, Poway Unified School District in California, Henry County Public Schools in Virginia, and Westside Community Schools in Nebraska. Slides from the release press conference can be viewed at the CoSN site. The report is \$19.95 for CoSN members and \$24.95 to non-members. It can be downloaded online at <http://www.cosn.org/store> or a hard copy can be shipped for a \$5 shipping and handling charge for up to five copies.

## **CoSN announces "Cyber Security for the Digital District" initiative**

In partnership with Mass Networks Education Partnership (Mass Networks), CoSN is developing a program to provide schools and school districts with vital information on education networks in order



to ensure the privacy and the security of data within their systems. This initiative will provide a source of up-to-date, unbiased information. In addition to the “Cyber Security: Helping Schools Protect Their Technology Assets and Fulfill Their Educational Mission” background paper to grant the issues for educators, future deliverables include:

- Toolkit to assist educators in understanding the issues around network security, explain the problem to other stakeholders, assess their own situation, and begin to reduce the risk
- On-going professional development with face-to-face “train the trainer” workshops
- Web tool to enable educators to self assess their understanding of cyber-security issues and compare their district’s situation with other responders
- Compilation of case studies
- Webcast of cyber security for CoSN members and federal, state, and local policy makers
- Development of an asynchronous online course

*Cyber Security for the Digital District* is supported by education grants from SonicWall, SurfControl, Symantec, Sun Microsystems, Microsoft, *District Administration* magazine, and the U.S. Department of Education in collaboration with the Northwest Regional Education Lab. Further information about this initiative will soon be available at the project’s website at <http://securedistrict.cosn.org/>.

### **Digital library gives blind children a boost**

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), one of the world’s largest producers of alternative-format materials, has gone digital. The CNIB Digital Library brings all of the library’s online services, including the CNIB catalogue and digital repository of books, into one unified, bilingual, Internet gateway. There are more than 10,000 audio, text, and Braille title available online for instant reading, including bestsellers, current editions of 40 daily national and community newspapers from across Canada, and full-text versions of thousands of magazines and databases such as the Encyclopedia Britannica On-Line. The Children’s Discovery Portal offers blind and visually impaired children access to online games, participation in online polls, and help children with their homework. They can sample or read entire books online and chat with other children who are blind. To try out the CNIB Digital Library, visit <http://www.cnib.ca/library> and select the “guest” option on the login screen.

### **Teachers' toolkit for digital content for their classrooms**

A free toolkit is available to help find and use digital content in the classroom. Sponsored by the Verizon Foundation and developed by the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST), the toolkit includes information about software tools and model lessons for educators interested in using computer technology to reach and teach students. Users can learn how to find digital text, images, sound and video appropriate to their curricular needs, or to create their own digital learning materials using downloadable content and commercially available software. Toolkits are available free of charge to teachers at

[http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/toolkits/tk\\_introduction.cfm?tk\\_id=41](http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/toolkits/tk_introduction.cfm?tk_id=41)

### **SIF has new executive director**

Larry Fruth became the new executive director for the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) in August. Recent happenings at SIF include:

- The United States Department of Education (USED), one of SIF’s newest members, will be active in the development and support of data models and technical specifications. Hugh Walkup, Director of Strategic Accountability Service for the USED states, “through its membership in SIF the U.S. Department of Education intends to support common standards in educational data systems and to assure that Department data initiatives are aligned with and reflected in SIF standards.”
- SIF is proud to announce that since the NCES Stats DC conference, five additional states have joined the initiative with many more in conversation as the PBDMI and NCLB requirements become better defined.
- SIF has been invited to join the National Forum on Education Statistics (Forum).
- Currently eight states and numerous school districts have established or shortly will be releasing SIF-compliant RFP language for their individual software acquisition processes. This is critical in positioning PK-12 in the “driver’s seat” with vendors to ensure they are developing interoperable products for long-term state and local success.

For more information about SIF, visit [www.sifinfo.org](http://www.sifinfo.org) . Larry can be reached at [lfruth@sifinfo.org](mailto:lfruth@sifinfo.org)

## **Student TECH CORPS Initiative**

TECH CORPS, a national non-profit that brings valuable technology resources and volunteers into schools, is pleased to announce an opportunity for middle schools across the country to apply for a grant to receive a fully-funded Student TECH CORPS program...thanks to Dell! Student TECH CORPS, the latest initiative from TECH CORPS, delivers core technology training and certification to middle school students, then harnesses their knowledge to power a Student-Run Help Desk to provide valuable technical support to their school. Through a competitive grant made possible through a collaboration between Dell and TECH CORPS, two middle schools will be selected to receive: basic technology training, testing and certification for their students, and the training, software and procedures needed for implementing a Student-Run Help Desk in their school. Interested schools must apply on-line at <http://www.studenttechcorps.org/grant> . All applications must be received by 5:00 pm (EST), December 15, 2003. Winners will be announced on January 9th, 2004.

Note: Judging will be at the sole discretion on TECH CORPS and will not be influenced by the Sponsor.

## **Midwest Education Technology Conference (METC)-January 26- 28, 2004**

--Submitted by Nancy George, Program Manager, METC, Cooperating School Districts, St. Louis

Discover strategies for effectively integrating technology into every aspect of your curriculum. Register now for Cooperating School Districts' Midwest Education Technology Conference, set for January 26-28, 2004. "Tessellate Technology: Putting It All Together" is the theme of the convention. Enjoy the conference's new venue the Sheraton West Port Lakeside Chalet in St. Louis.

Most of the presenters are classroom teachers sharing their successes, lessons learned, strategies and projects with METC participants. Educators talking with other educators make the METC a valuable experience for participants even if they take back and implement only one new idea. Such an example is in Troy, MO. J.J. Hoskins' program using students as technicians in the schools, is a wonderful example of students using their new technical skills in a productive and effective way. Schools and districts are always seeking new ways to address the technical repairs and demands placed on their limited human resources by the computers in the classrooms. Additionally, conference participants always like to hear from students co-presenting with the teacher.

Four keynote speakers are featured: Kathy Schrock, Mark Standley, Tara Brown-L'Bahy, and Peter Skillen. Take advantage of a full day of 19 pre-conference workshops and two days of breakout sessions. You now have another opportunity to see and hear more "best practices utilizing technology"! The new "Early Risers Session" is 8:00-8:50 a.m. followed by the morning keynote speaker. Visit the many exhibit booths to explore new software and the latest in technology equipment.

The conference also promises great attendance prizes, including handheld computers. METC now offers two CyberCafe locations to provide you with easier access to check your e-mail or a new website. For cost information, contact Dorothy White at (314) 692-1250 or [dwhite@csd.org](mailto:dwhite@csd.org) or visit the CSD website <http://www.csd.org/metc2004> . For fast, easy registration, visit the METC registration page online at <http://www.techd.com/metc2k4/>

## **Show-Me TechKnowledge Day—February 18, 2004**

--Submitted by Sally Burnett, 2004 Show-Me TechKnowledge Day Chairperson

Do you work with students and technology in innovative ways? Would you like to showcase your students and district for policy-makers throughout the state? If so, we want you!

A grassroots organization, Show-Me TechKnowledge, helps identify and support students as they exhibit effective and innovative uses of technology. State leaders, policy-makers, and others are

invited to the Capitol Rotunda to view the exhibits, talk to the students, and learn how education technology positively impacts teaching and learning.

Last year, 13 districts from across the state, grades K-12 participated in the event. Show-Me TechKnowledge 2004 is now accepting applications from prospective student/teacher exhibitors. This year's event will be held on February 18, 2004. The deadline for submitting applications is December 5, 2003. Join us in celebrating your students' success – submit an application today. [Show-Me Application](#); [Show-Me Committee Cover Letter](#)



### **MOREnet Spring Technical Conference: Connection 2004**

--Submitted by Eric Nicklas, Program Manager, K-12 Technology Network Program, MOREnet

MOREnet will present its sixth annual Spring Technical Conference: Connection 2004 on March 24-25, 2004, at Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach, Mo. The conference is designed to provide information on current technologies and solutions as well as offer insight into the future directions of technology in education.

The focus of this year's conference will be Security. Anticipated topics presented by MOREnet staff and other networking professionals include network security, server and workstation security, and wireless security. Other technical topics may include an introduction to network management, videoconferencing, Linux, roundtable discussions, wide area networking, and network and workstation troubleshooting.

This conference targets those who manage and support technology, including, but not limited to, technology coordinators and technology support specialists who are current members of MOREnet. The 2004 Connections conference will be open to any staff member of a MOREnet-associated organization.

Registration for the Spring Technical Conference costs \$150. Registration fees include meals, admission to breakout sessions, the exhibitor fair and reception. Online registration for the conference will be open January 26 - March 12, 2004. Onsite registration also will be available for \$175. A single-day registration fee will not be available.

The conference program committee invites the online submission of presentation proposals for Connections 2004. Authors of accepted presentations will be invited to present at the conference in breakout sessions. Presentation proposals will be accepted until December 12, 2003. Submit proposals at <http://www.more.net/conferences/spring2004/submission.html>.

For complete conference information, including schedule, costs, presenter and exhibitor information, visit the conference website at <http://www.more.net/conferences/spring2004/>. For additional information contact Sandra Monnig ([conferences@more.net](mailto:conferences@more.net)) or Eric Nicklas ([eric@more.net](mailto:eric@more.net)) or call (800) 509-6673.



### **Missouri Schools and Programs in the News**

#### Wellington-Napoleon R-IX

Congratulations to Wellington-Napoleon School District who was recently featured in eSchool News, a national publication about technology in education. The article focuses on ways for schools to maintain or improve technology offerings in times of budget cuts.

Wellington-Napoleon's use of Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) for technology budget decision-making was highlighted in the article, as well as a brief mention of how they are using donated equipment from businesses and government to help increase what is available to their students. Check out the article at <http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/reports/itfundingcrunch/>. The district's technology plan, as well as policies, procedures, tools and several presentations are available online at <http://www.well-nap.k12.mo.us/>



### eMINTS Program

The eMINTS professional development program will be featured at the State Education Technology Director's Association (SETDA) National Leadership Institute on December 7-10 in Washington, DC. One of the working groups for state educational technology directors will focus on model programs and the eMINTS program will be discussed. Of particular interest to the group is the way that the eMINTS program combines inquiry-based teaching strategies with technology. The group will also discuss the use of technology in the delivery of professional development for teachers.

### **Copyright Question of the Month**

- Q.** May an educator (e.g., administrator, classroom teacher, substitute teacher, or student teacher) other district employee, volunteer or others make or request that a videotape be made which uses segments from several videotapes to teach a particular concept.
- A.** **No** Segments may not be copied onto a single videotape as this creates an anthology or collection.

Note: Individual segments from several different videotapes may be shown. The entire videotape need not be shown.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

<b>SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE IT STAFF</b>	
December 1	Newsline published online
5	2004 Show-Me TechKnowledge applications due
12	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 pm) Governor's Office Building, Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
23	Newsline articles due
25-26	Christmas Holidays—State Offices Closed
January 1	New Year's Day—State Offices Closed
3	Newsline published online
15	Writing a Tech Plan - Technical Assistance (Sponsored by METPA) Truman State Office Building, Room 490, Jefferson City, MO
25	Newsline articles due
February 1	Newsline published online
23	Title IID eMINTS Workshop Governor Office Bldg, Room 450 Jefferson City, MO

### **Upcoming 2003-2004 Conferences**

December 2-3	Missouri Network Security Symposium Linn State Technical College and Missouri Research and Education Network MOREnet, Columbia, MO <a href="http://www.more.net/services/conferences">http://www.more.net/services/conferences</a>
January 22-24	Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC) 2004 Orlando, Florida <a href="http://www.fetc.org">http://www.fetc.org</a>

January 26-28	Midwest Education and Teaching Conference (METC) Cooperating School Districts Sheraton West Port Lakeside Chalet Hotel, St. Louis, MO <a href="http://www.csd.org/metc2004">http://www.csd.org/metc2004</a>
January 29-31	Twenty-Second Annual International Conference: Technology, Reading and Learning Difficulties (TRL D) 2004 Grand Hyatt San Francisco on Union Square, San Francisco, CA <a href="http://www.trld.com">http://www.trld.com</a>
February 19-21	Interface A-Grades K-6 Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO <a href="http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum">http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum</a>
February 22-24	Interface B-Grades 7-12 Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO <a href="http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum">http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum</a>
March 9-10	RCET-SW Education and Technology Conference Springfield, MO <a href="http://www.rcet.net/Conf03/ConfCard.html">www.rcet.net/Conf03/ConfCard.html</a>
March 24-25	Higher Education Learning and Information eXchange (HELIX) 2004 MOREnet Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO <a href="http://www.more.net/conferences/helix2004">http://www.more.net/conferences/helix2004</a>
March 24-25	Connections 2004 MOREnet Spring Technical Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO <a href="http://www.more.net/conferences">http://www.more.net/conferences</a>
July 15-16	Missouri Distance Learning Conference (MoDLA) Site to be determined



## From the Mailbag

The Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program

[www.iie.org/fmf](http://www.iie.org/fmf) .

The Fulbright Memorial Fund (FMF) Teacher Program provides U.S. primary and secondary school teachers and administrators with the opportunity to participate in three-week study visits to Japan and to return home with a follow-on plan designed to introduce Japanese culture to American students. The FMF Program, which is fully funded by the Japanese Government, aims to increase understanding between Japan and the United States and is intended to extend far beyond the educators who participate. FMF alumni agree to share what they have learned about Japan with their students, colleagues, and community members upon return to the United States.

In the past, educators from the state of Missouri have shown a strong interest in the FMF program. Our hope is that such enthusiasm will continue throughout the 2004 competition year.

This year's application deadline is December 10, 2003. Attached is the 2003 FMF Press Announcement and the 2004 Fax Order Form with additional information about the program.

We also invite you to visit the FMF/IIE website at [www.iie.org/fmf](http://www.iie.org/fmf) .  
<http://iie.post.intellimedia.com/UM/T.asp?A1734.39325.10505.1.155087>

There, you will find further information about the FMF Teacher Program as well as our online application. Should you require more materials, or have any questions about the program, please contact us at 1-888-527-2636 or [fmf@iie.org](mailto:fmf@iie.org).



2003 Press.pdf



FMF 2004 Fax Order  
Form.pdf

#### Technology Grant Opportunity

[www.hp.com/go/hpteach](http://www.hp.com/go/hpteach)

The HP Technology for Teaching Grant is targeted to K-12 public schools in the U.S. HP will select teams of five teachers from at least 150 schools to receive equipment, professional development and the support they need to effectively integrate technology into their instruction. Preference will be given to low-income schools, relative to district or state free and reduced price lunch percentages and to projects that include integration of mathematics and/or science curriculum.

Proposals must be completed online and submitted via the web at <http://www.hp.com/go/hpteach> by Monday, March 1, 2004.

The 2004 HP Technology for Teaching Grant award includes several elements. Each of the 5 teachers on the school's project team will receive:

- an HP Tablet PC
- an HP multimedia projector
- HP Help Desk technical support for one year
- a \$500 stipend
- customized professional development opportunities to support the use of technology in their teaching

For more information and a printable pdf form, go to the website.

#### Playwriting Contest for Grades 3-9

[http://www.playstages.com/News\\_and\\_Events\\_PWContest.shtml](http://www.playstages.com/News_and_Events_PWContest.shtml)

Students grades 3 through 9 are eligible to enter. Scripts can be submitted by individual student playwrights or by a team. Each submission must be sponsored by an adult, preferably a teacher or school-age care leader. Cash prizes will be awarded to organizations, e.g., the school or the school age care program, not to individual students or sponsors. Two grand prizes of \$500 each will be awarded. There is no limit to the number of scripts that can be submitted by a student, sponsor or organization.

#### Internet 4 Classrooms

<http://www.internet4classrooms.com/index.htm>

This site provides a variety of information to help teachers use the Internet effectively. Sections include:

Links for K-12 Teachers - a good starting point for your web searching - We provide several large collections of links to help with specific subject areas, or areas of interest to K-12 teachers. Don't miss the Standardized Testing Practice links!

- [Daily Dose of the Web](#) - Web sites that can be used in your classroom daily. These are sites that change content on a daily or weekly basis.
- [On-Line Practice Modules](#) - Step-by-step tutorials for learning a variety of applications commonly used in K-12 classrooms
- [In School Integration Support \(ISIS\)](#) - Several workshops are available for schools/districts to provide training for teachers to make effective use of technology in their classrooms
- [Tech Tip Archive](#)

#### Schools of Excellence Awards

<http://www.blueribbonschools.com/award>

Intel Corporation, Scholastic Administrator, and the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Foundation have created the 21st Century Schools of Distinction Award, a national award program to recognize and highlight the successes of America's best K-12 schools while celebrating their use of technology, the benefits of strong teamwork, and their development of excellent classroom teachers. In 2004, the Intel Foundation will award more than \$200,000 to the honorees. The Deadline is December 31, 2003. Schools may apply in one of the following categories: 1) academic excellence, 2) community involvement, 3) innovative use of technology, 4) involved parents/teachers, 5) partnership, 6) professional development, 7) teamwork, 8) technology implementation, and 9) technology excellence; winners in each of those categories will receive \$10,000.

#### Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative

[http://grants.hp.com/us/programs/tech\\_teaching/index.html](http://grants.hp.com/us/programs/tech_teaching/index.html)

This grant initiative is designed to support the innovative use of technology in K-16 education, and to help identify K-12 schools and higher education institutions that HP might support with future grants. Based on the outcomes of the projects funded through this initiative in 2004, HP will offer grant recipients the opportunity to apply for additional, higher-value grants in 2005.



#### **Internet Sites of Interest**

##### Teacher Net

<http://teachers.net/>

Check out this site for a variety of teacher resources such as lesson plans, chatboards, web tools and special interest centers.

##### Food Chains and Food Webs

What is the difference between a food chain and a food web?

FOOD CHAINS follow a single path taken as different creatures eat each other for energy and FOOD WEBS explore how all life is interconnected.

##### Interesting Facts about Food Chains & Food Webs

[http://www.arcytech.org/java/population/facts\\_foodchain.html](http://www.arcytech.org/java/population/facts_foodchain.html)

Contains a description of food chains, food webs, and ecological pyramids.

##### Food Chains and Webs

<http://www.vtaide.com/png/foodchains.htm>

Explores food chains and food web and even includes an interact area where you create possible food webs.

##### Introduction to Food Chains and Food Webs

[http://www.lalc.k12.ca.us/uclasp/urban\\_science/food\\_chains/intro\\_chains.html](http://www.lalc.k12.ca.us/uclasp/urban_science/food_chains/intro_chains.html)

Among the student objectives is to show the energy flow through a food chain by constructing model food chains and food webs with the given drawings of organisms.

##### Food Chain Lessons

<http://www.nsrl.ttu.edu/edoutreach/Lessons/foodchain.htm>

Elementary students explore relationships between living things within the context of mammals in Texas through discussion, song, games, crafts and writing.

##### eThemes

#### Animals: Meerkats

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001168.shtml>

These sites are about meerkats, a type of mongoose that lives in Africa. Learn what they eat and how they protect themselves from predators. Find out what types of social roles they have in their groups. Includes movies, photographs, and a game.

#### Animals: Turkeys

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001179.shtml>

These sites are about turkeys. Find out the differences between wild and domestic turkeys. Learn why wild turkeys almost became extinct, why they are commonly served at Thanksgiving, and if these big birds can fly. Includes photographs, games, and illustrations. There is a link to an eThemes resource on Thanksgiving.

#### Comparing Communities: Urban, Suburb, and Rural

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001162.shtml>

These sites have information about the characteristics of communities. Learn about urban, suburb and rural communities and discover how they differ. Includes photographs and lesson plans.

#### Literature: "Antigone" by Sophocles

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001172.shtml>

These sites are about the Greek tragedy "Antigone." Read the full text online. Includes summaries, discussion questions, and suggested classroom activities. Includes biographies on the author, Sophocles, plus information about "Oedipus."

#### Ghana

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001178.shtml>

These sites are about the Republic of Ghana, located in eastern Africa. Read about the customs, government, and history. See images of the Kente cloth and learn about the Ashanti people. There are links to eThemes resources on Africa and adinkra cloths.

#### Country: Pakistan

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001184.shtml>

Learn about Pakistan's history, geography, and people. Includes photographs, maps, and flags. See a live scene from a webcam in Karachi, the capital.

#### Grammar: Homophones

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001152.shtml>

These sites are about homophones, which are words that sound the same but are spelled differently and have different meanings. Includes lists of common homophones plus movies, online quizzes, and many practice exercises.

#### Literature: "True Confessions of Charolette Doyle" by Avi

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001196.shtml>

These sites are about the book "True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle" and author Avi. Includes many discussion questions, hands-on activity ideas, and some online quizzes and games. There is a link to an eThemes resource on historical fiction.

#### Missouri: Natural Resources

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001149.shtml>

Learn about the natural resources in Missouri. Topics include minerals, plants, soil, springs, rivers, and animals. There are links to many separate eThemes on these topics.

#### Author Study: Tomie dePaola

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001182.shtml>

These sites are about author Tomie dePaola and his many books, including the "26 Fairmont Avenue" series. Includes lesson plans and activity ideas.

#### Continent: Asia

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001180.shtml>



Learn about the continent of Asia and its many countries. There are maps, country flags, photographs, and facts about Asian culture. Includes recipes for Asian dishes and instructions for craft activities. There are links to eThemes resources on Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Iraq, and Pakistan.

Country: El Salvador

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001181.shtml>

These sites are about El Salvador, a country in Central America. Learn about the country's history, wildlife, and geography. There are also links to information about Hispanic culture, including timelines and famous Hispanic Americans.

Geography: New England Region of the United States

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001156.shtml>

These sites are about the six states in New England: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Learn about the history, state symbols, and geography of these states. Includes maps, quizzes, and images of state flags.

Literature: "Birchbark House" by Louise Erdrich

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001187.shtml>

These sites are about the book "Birchbark House," which features a Native American family living on the frontier. The book has been compared to the "Little House" books, although the main characters are part of the Ojibwe (also called Chippewa) tribe. Includes activities about the book and information on Minnesota, Lake Superior, and the Ojibwe tribe.

Job Hunting Skills

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001194.shtml>

These sites have information about how to apply for a job. There are tips on how to find a job and fill out an application. Includes sample interview questions, videos of people talking about their careers, and a list of job openings. There is a link to an eThemes resource on career exploration.

Missouri: Famous Women

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001142.shtml>

These sites have biographies of famous women who have connections to Missouri. The list includes Bess Truman, Calamity Jane, Marie Elizabeth Oliver, Susan Elizabeth Blow, Molly Brown, Maya Angeleou, and more. Learn about the contributions they made and how they earned their fame.

Writing: Newspaper Articles

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00001200.shtml>

These sites have tips for writing newspaper stories. Learn how to use an inverted pyramid and answer the questions of who, what, when, where, why, and how. Includes information about headlines, leads, and story angles. There are links to eThemes resources on newspaper production and news sites for students.

Updated eThemes

Forensic Science

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000428.shtml>

These sites explain how forensic scientists study physical evidence and solve crimes. Many sites focus on fingerprints, how they are taken, and how they are used. There are links to an eThemes resource on espionage and spies.

Grammar: Possessive Nouns

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000493.shtml>

These sites are about possessive nouns. Includes rules on how to form possessive nouns and examples of them. There are interactive quizzes, games, a PowerPoint, and classroom exercises. There is also a link to an eThemes resource on nouns.

Grammar: Sentences

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000357.shtml>

These sites explain the different types of sentences. Includes examples of interrogative, declarative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences. Also learn about run-on, compound, and complex sentences. Discover which punctuation ends certain types of sentences. Includes many online games and quizzes. There are links to eThemes resources on nouns, verbs, paragraphs, and more.

#### Physics: Sound

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000332.shtml>

These sites explain sound waves and how the ear hears sounds. Includes information on sonic booms and decibels. Listen to a variety of sounds, play a virtual piano, watch movies about sound, or try several hands-on experiments. Includes a link to an eThemes resource on radio waves.

#### Rocks and Minerals

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000504.shtml>

These sites describe various rocks and minerals. Includes hands-on activities, online games, many photographs, and two animated movies. Learn about igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks and some of the more common minerals. There are links to eThemes resources on fossils and erosion. *Utah Standards have been added to this eTheme.*

#### Geography: Midwest Region of the United States

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000399.shtml>

These sites focus on the states in the Midwest. Learn more about the history, land, economy, industries, and animals of this region. Includes many photographs plus statistics that can be graphed. The following states are included: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. Also has links to eThemes resources on the West, South and Northeast.

#### Geography: Northeastern Region of the United States

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000576.shtml>

These sites focus on the states in the Northeast. Learn more about the history, land, economy, industries, and animals of this region. There are many photographs, plus statistics that can be graphed. The following states are included: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. There are also links to eThemes resources on the Midwest, South, and West.

#### Geography: Southern Region of the United States

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000575.shtml>

These sites focus on the states in the South. Learn more about the history, land, economy, industries, and animals of this region. There are many photographs as well as statistics that can be graphed. The following states are included: Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. Also includes links to eThemes resources on the Midwest, West, and Northeast.

#### Geography: Western Region of the United States

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000574.shtml>

These sites focus on the states in the West. Learn more about the history, land, economy, industries, and animals of this region. There are many photographs plus statistics that can be graphed. The following states are included: Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. There are also links to eThemes resources on the Midwest, South and Northeast. *Utah Standards have been added to this eTheme.*